(iii) Piloting of new technologies for tracking movement of vehicles transporting TPDS Commodities.

D. Improve the efficiency of FPS operations

(i) Doorstep delivery of foodgrains to FPS

(ii) Timely availability of fooodgrains at FPS

(iii) Distribution of wheat flour/fortified wheat flour under TPDS

(iv) Allotment of Fair Price Shops to Institutions and Groups

(v) Sale of non-PDS items by FPS

(vi) Revision of Commission paid by State Government to FPS licensees

3. To improve functioning of TPDS, specially during the period of drought, State/UT Governments have been directed to take up a special campaign during October-December, 2009 to verify BPL and AAY ration cardholders to detect and eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards.

Mandatory hours for Professors in Universities

203. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per UGC, Professors in Universities and Colleges are required to put in at least 40 hours per week;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in a number of Central Universities, Professors, Readers and Lecturers frequently skip classes and they also do not update their knowledge; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the work load of the teacher in full employment should not be less than 40 hours a week for 30 working weeks in an academic year. It is necessary for the teacher to be available for at least 5 hours daily in the University/ College.

(c) and (d) No data is available to conclusively indicate that in Central Universities, teachers frequently skip classes or do not update their knowledge. However, a relaxation of two hours in the workload has been given to Professors who are actively involve in research, extension and administration. 57 Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs) have been identified by the UGC to conduct refresher courses and orientation programmes for faculty to update their knowledge.